

## Claims

1. Information system for vehicles, comprising:  
a plurality of contactless transceivers that allow a data  
transfer at close range with terminals within the vehicle,  
5 central data processing means,  
a data bus that is connected with said transceivers and with  
said data processing means, so that data can be transmitted between  
private portable terminals of the passengers and the central data  
processing means in both directions over said transceivers and said data  
10 bus,  
the system being usable for distributing information and  
entertainment programs to the passengers,  
passengers' identification data being stored in their terminals  
in such a manner that these identification data are transmitted to said  
15 central data processing means, so that the system can also be used for  
checking the passengers' travel authorizations.
2. The information system of claim 1, wherein at least one radio  
receiver is connected with said central data processing means that can  
receive data from a sender outside the vehicle.
- 20 3. The information system of claim 2, wherein a bi-directional  
data transfer is possible between said radio receiver and said sender.
4. The information system of claim 3, wherein the data received  
with said radio receiver are converted into a format compatible with said  
data bus.
- 25 5. The information system of claim 3, wherein said transceivers  
are suitable for a communication with RFID elements.
6. The information system of claim 3, wherein said transceivers  
are suitable for a communication according to the Bluetooth standard.

7. The information system of claim 3, wherein said transceivers are suitable for a communication according to the HomeRF standard.

8. The information system of claim 2, wherein said radio receiver can receive DAB program-accompanying data.

5 9. The information system of claim 2, wherein said radio receiver can receive DVB program-accompanying data.

10. The information system of claim 3, wherein said radio receiver can receive and send GSM data.

10 11. The information system of claim 3, wherein said radio receiver can receive and send UMTS data.

12. The information system of claim 10, wherein a voice and/or data communication between the passengers in the vehicle and subscribers of an external mobile radio network can take place over said data bus and said radio receiver.

15 13. The information system of claim 12, wherein temporary mobile network identifications are provided by the operator of the vehicle.

14. The information system of claim 12, wherein said data processing means comprise a visitor register in which the passengers' personal identifications in said mobile radio network are stored.

20 15. The information system claim 1, wherein a voice and/or data communication between the passengers in the vehicle can take place over said data bus.

25 16. The information system of claim 1, wherein at least one said transceiver is intended for checking the entering and leaving passengers at the doors of the vehicle.

17. The information system of claim 16, wherein the position of the identified passengers in the vehicle is stored in said data processing means.

18. The information system of claim 17, wherein at least certain  
5 data transmitted over said data bus are addressed depending on said stored position.

19. The information system of claim 1, wherein a software module for computing the traveled distance is executed in said central data processing means.

20. The information system of claim 19, wherein said software  
10 module uses the passengers' identification stored in said private terminals of these passengers.

21. The information system of claim 1, wherein a location-determining module is connected with said central data processing means.

22. The information system of claim 21, wherein location-  
15 dependent information is selected depending on said location-determining module and distributed to passengers.

23. Method for checking the travel authorizations of passengers in a vehicle, the passengers' travel authorizations being stored in personal  
20 terminals,

wherein said travel authorizations are transmitted to central data processing means over a data bus that is also used for distributing information and entertainment programs to passengers.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said information and  
25 entertainment programs are reproduced with said personal terminals.

25. The communication method of claim 23, wherein the passengers log into an external mobile radio network over said data bus.

26. The communication method of claim 25, wherein a temporary user identification is provided by the operator of the vehicle.

27. The communication method of claim 26, wherein the passengers' personal user identification in the external mobile radio  
5 network is stored in a visitor register in the vehicle.

28. Information system for vehicles, comprising:  
a plurality of short range radio transceivers that allow a  
bidirectional data transfer at close range with passengers' personal  
terminals within the vehicle,  
10 central data processing means,  
a data bus that is connected with said transceivers and with  
said data processing means, so that data can be transmitted between  
private portable terminals of the passengers and the central data  
processing means in both directions over said transceivers and said data  
15 bus,  
the system being usable for distributing information and  
entertainment programs to the passengers,  
passengers' identification data being stored in their personal  
terminals in such a manner that these identification data are transmitted to  
20 said central data processing means, so that the system can also be used for  
checking the passengers' travel authorizations.

29. The information system of claim 28, wherein said transceivers  
and said terminals are suitable for a communication according to the  
Bluetooth standard.